

# Crystal McElroy

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. Based on the DEIS, the project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead, including major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced.

I am also concerned about the scale and cost of the proposed structure, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. At an estimated \$1.3–\$2.3 billion, the dam would offer limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at long-term risk.

More effective, less damaging flood-reduction approaches already exist, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. I grew up in Chehalis, I grew up fishing on the Chehalis, I grew up on the flood plain. This dam will have long term detrimental effects on the community, the ecosystem, and there are other more effective flood solutions out there. It is embarrassing that in times such as now, with the massive salmon crisis we are in, that the state would even consider putting in a dam that would lead to a worsening of the salmon crisis. I urge Ecology to pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Crystal McElroy